

Price, Richard

From: Ruth O'Donnell <rodonnell@preferred-mfg.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:59 AM
To: pstestimony
Cc: Sen. McLachlan, Michael
Subject: Senate Bill 1090

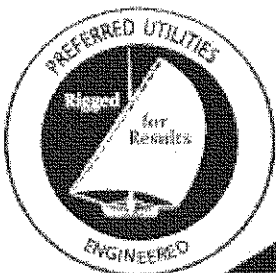
A Testimony by David G. Bohn, President and CEO of Preferred Utilities in Danbury, CT:

Casinos cannot continue to deliver on promised revenue to the state and always bring social ills in. Therefore, I adamantly oppose the Senate Bill 1090 which would result in the creation of new casinos along I-91, I-95 and I-84. In 2013, the Institute for American Values (IAV) organized a Council on Casinos that did extensive study on the causes and effects that casinos bring to states that implement them. The IAV found that although gambling used to be for only the wealthy in a resort-style setting, the regional casinos, founded by the state for revenue, appeal to a much different class of people. Now, people do not have to travel to resorts to games, they can travel 70 miles or less to gamble only, not spending money at local businesses or restaurants in the area. Because of this, the gamblers are of the poorer class, ill-equipped to lose money, and local businesses suffer because of the "free" perks offered by the casinos such as food, drinks, and transportation. Places such as Atlantic City embraced casinos as a source for economic renewal, but today despite multiple state bailouts and a \$30 million state advertising campaign, the place is still in need of economic renewal. In most cases, casinos cannot support themselves because of the now competitive market with every New England state trying to take business from the others. However, the states bail them out in order to maintain the revenue that they do make.

Casinos also adversely affect communities and families. Problem gamblers bring financial hardships on themselves and their families including debt, defaulted loans, bankruptcy, or loss of a home or business. IAV cites a Gamblers Anonymous study that found up to 26 percent have gambling-related divorces or separations. Children of problem gamblers suffer from parental neglect, financial insecurity, and lost opportunities such as college. Although casinos tempt politicians with promises of economic renewal, the long term effects of casinos are negative. The presence of a casino drives out local businesses, and reduces community action such as voluntarism, civic participation, and family stability. Regional casinos take money out of a community rather than bringing money into a community. Bailouts, subsidies, and social costs are the price tag on setting up a casino system that creates more money for the state. Although many politicians look to casinos as an easy way to balance the state budget, casinos are a regressive source of revenue. Women, low-wage workers, and retirees contribute most of the state casino revenue. This traps the state into depending on a regressive system that takes from the underprivileged and rewards the wealthy. The revenue the state creates is not worth the money the state has to spend to keep the system going or the ruined lives that are linked to the development of regional casinos.

Thank You,

David G. Bohn



Ruth O'Donnell
Executive Assistant
Preferred Utilities Manufacturing Corporation.

31-35 South Street, Danbury, CT 06810 | www.preferred-mfg.com
office: 203-743-6741 x 1010 cell: 203-788-4430 | rodonnell@preferred-mfg.com

Combustion Engineering since 1920